



Volume 64

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# HI-Q

## THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC, Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

### **Happy New Year to One and All**

Hope everyone has had a very good holiday season, not too much Christmas cheer and took everything in stride. Now is time to make your New Years resolutions. Mine is still encourage Mr. Mellis to go for his Morse code soon. All the best in the new year, Wayne, VA3WRL

### **Code Classes**

For those who are interested in upgrading their basic qualifications to allow operation on the HF bands, morse code classes will commence in January, 1998. Classes will be held on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The night will depend on when the majority of people are available. For those who are retired or whose schedules will not allow for a spare evening , a daytime class can be arranged (there IAN, who no longer has a excuse). If you are interested, please contact Norm Bell, VE3XRC at 577-9316 before Christmas so that the appropriate material can be available. There is no fee for this course. (Norm Bell, VE3XRC).

Sorry folks forgot to have this in the Dec. Issue of Hi-Q . Please feel free to contact Norm regardless, thank you very much Hi-Q Ed.

like to donate or if you can help at the door before dinner please let me know. Thank you very much and have a Happy New Year. Bob, VE3RVA

### **New Call Sign for Pat**

Patrick Doherty, VA3GD has gotten a new call sign. His new call sign is now VE3PD can anyone think up what PD stands for ? Off hand the only thing I think up is "Police Department and Puppy Dog. So if anyone can think a good one for Pats' call let me know maybe we can have a little fun at Patricks' expense Hi ! Just remember "Radishes and Carrots" Happy New Year. Pat it's a good call sign, Wayne. Hi-Q Ed.

### **Sorry Wrong Number**

In the article about the line test for bandwidth I was given the wrong number or I was mistaken when I wrote the number down. The correct number is 1-888-877-9248, and remember to use **line test** as user.. sorry Hi-Q Ed.

### **Inside HI-Q**

Minutes	Pg 2
Public Service ,Amateur Guidelines, History of maritime Distress Calls	Pg 3
News From Europe, Ham Puzzler, Fists	Pg 4
Swap & shop URL, RAC e-mail Robot, Sunspots	
	Pg 5
B.Y.O.B. Squirrel Boots, Glossary	Pg 6

### **LARC Family Ski Night coming up in February**

February 26 at 7:00 pm is time to show up at Kamview Nordic Centre for the LARC Family ski Night. More on this in the February Issue of Hi-Q.

### **LARC Coming Dinner Dance Meeting**

Tickets are now for sale for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club's Dinner Meeting which will be held on February 12, 1998 at the DaVinci Centre. Symposium is at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:45 pm. A cash bar will be available. Tickets are selling for \$ 20.00 per person, they can be purchased from any member of the LARC Executive or by phoning myself Bob, VE3RVA at (807)-767-6924. If you have a door prize you would

**1997/1998 LARC****Founding President**  
P. J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW

LARC maintains the Club call VE3FW to honour the memory of our first President Mr. Pat O'Shea.

**Senate**  
 Bill Roberts VE3ARN  
 Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
 Bert Lambert VE3BKY  
 Ray Greer VE3CH  
 Bill Klemacki VE3AJ

**Executive Board**

President:	Ian Mellis .....	VA3RIM .....	577-1628
Vice Pres:	Ed Baumann .....	VE3SNW .....	622-1216
Secretary:	Norm Bell .....	VE3XRC .....	577-9316
Treasurer:	John Watson .....	VE3GTX .....	683-3199
Directors:	Judy LeFevre .....	VA3EAP .....	
	Sam Shonias .....	VA3SAM .....	
	Bob Hanson .....	VE3RVA .....	767-6924
	Jan Sokoloski .....	VA3JRS .....	
Past Pres:	Terry Stewardson ....	VE3TKA .....	577-9439

**Appointments**

Mem. Sec.:	John Watson .....	VE3GTX .....	683-3199
Hi-Q Editor:	Wayne Letang .....	VA3WRL .....	344-9759

**Club Repeaters**  
 VE3YQT 147.060 - OFFSET  
 VE3TBR 146.820 - OFFSET

**Next Meeting**  
**January 8, 1998**

Meetings are held every second Thursday of each month at Confederation College in room 207B in the McIntyre Building.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held at Boston Pizza, Arthurs Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario on December 11, 1997**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the President VA3RIM, Ian Mellis with 36 members and guests in attendance.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held November 13, 1997 were published in detail in the December edition of "HI-Q" and distributed to all members.

**Motion:** moved by VA3PEP, Carl Story and

seconded by VA3WRL, Wayne Letang that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried.**

**Correspondence:** none

**Treasurer's Report:** VE3GTX, John Watson stated that the Club is financially sound and due to the nature of this meeting, he did not present a formal financial statement. The new budget will be presented at the January meeting.

**Old Business:**

**-Annual Dinner:** VE3RVA, Bob Hansen stated that the annual dinner will be held Thursday, February 12/98 at the DiVinci Centre. Tickets will be \$ 20.00 per person and there will be a cash bar. The guest speaker has been booked and Bob is looking for volunteers to help him acquire door prizes.

**-John Beargrease Sled Dog Race:** will be held January 11 to 14, 1998. Once again, members of the LARC will man the most northerly radio check point at Grand Portage.

**-Museum Display:** VE3JQ, Keith Fiske stated that the display is set up and he has personally talked to the McDonald family to inform them of the display.

**-Call Book:** presently looking for advertising, both local and out of town.

**Adjournment:** moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

**Then the fun began.** The ladies, once again, presented one heck of a show that had those in attendance splitting their sides laughing. VE3XLB Linda Bell, VA3MOB Maureen Bell, VA3PP Pat Pugh, VE3MJN Marion Nawrocki and VA3EA P Judy LeFevre did a real number on some of the club members, especially "Pat from Murillo". VE3AVS Dave Kimpton made a special presentation to VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck (who was unable to attend). The items will help Rob stay afloat during spring skiing. Santa, better known as VE3SNW recited a special version of the "Night Before Christmas". To conclude the evening, VA3WRL Wayne Letang serenaded us with some classical guitar music.

**Public Service  
by  
Mike Nawrocki**

Happy 1998 to everyone, here is hoping you all had a good Xmas holiday, and you rang in the New Year in great style. A very busy 1997 on the Public Service front is past, and I am sure all those who participated in any way have some very fond memories. 1998 will still see our regular activities, but at least we will not have CJ97 or the Nordics to test everyone's mettle. As a recap, members of the Club were involved in a total of 14 events during the past year. Looking through the statistics for all the events, I find that approximately 30 different individuals participated in some way in at least one activity. In addition, six different people directed the events, some for the first time, others because they are old hands at it. Thank you for your efforts in whatever capacity you were able to participate. We are now ready to start on 1998, and it is quick in coming, provided we get some snow soon. The John Beargrease race may be run with dog teams, but they may have to pull wheeled sleighs if the white stuff does not soon make its presence. Bob RVA is gathering his volunteers in preparation, understand Skip BBS is going, and not sure who else yet. Had a meeting with the Sibley Ski people, we will need at least 12 persons if the weather co-operates so they can use their full planned courses. See you next month.

**Guidelines for  
Canadian Amateur**

The thoughtful Radio Amateur is:

**Responsible**  
using courteous operating practice,  
complying with regulations and accepted  
technical standards:

**helpful**  
offering assistance, support and encouragement to other Amateurs, especially beginners; and,

**Public Spirited**  
offering use of station, knowledge and skills as a public service whenever possible.

(W. Wilson, VE3NR TCA Dec, 1997. Pg 7)

**A History of Maritime Distress Calls by B. Neal McEwen**

The first use of wireless in communicating the need for assistance came in March of 1899. The East Goodwin Lightship, marking the southeastern English coast, was rammed in a fog in the early morning hours by the SS R. F. Matthews. A distress call was transmitted to a shore station at South Foreland and help was dispatched.

By 1904 there were many trans-Atlantic British ships equipped with wireless. The wireless operators came from the ranks of railroad and postal telegraphers. In England a general call on the landline wire was a "CQ." "CQ" preceded time signals and special notices. "CQ" was generally adopted by telegraph and cable stations all over the world. By using "CQ," each station receives a message from a single transmission and an economy of time and labor was realized. Naturally, "CQ," went with the operators to sea and was likewise used for a general call. This sign for "all stations" was adopted soon after wireless came into being by both ships and shore stations.

At the first international congress of wireless telegraphy in 1903, the Italians recommended the use of "SSSSDDD" to be used to signal an emergency. Its use would signal all other stations to stop sending and leave the channel open for emergency traffic. Though discussed, it was not adopted. In 1904, the Marconi company filled the gap by suggesting the use of "CQD" for a distress signal. Although generally accepted to mean, "Come Quick

Danger," that is not the case. It is a general call, "CQ," followed by "D," meaning distress. A strict interpretation would be "All stations, Distress."

At the second Berlin Radiotelegraphic Conference 1906, the subject of a danger signal was again addressed. The Germans had used "SOE" as a general inquiry call and suggested its adoption as a distress call internationally. Considerable discussion ensued and there was objection because the final letter was a single dot, hard to copy in adverse conditions. The letter "S" was substituted; the thinking was that three dots, three dashes and three dots could not be misinterpreted. It was to be sent together as one group. (The American distress signal "NC" for "Call for help without delay" was not adopted, although it remains as the international flag symbol for distress to this day.) The U.S. did not officially adopt "SOS" until 1912, being slow to adopt international wireless (versus American Morse landline code) standards.

The Marconi Yearbook of Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony , 1918 states, "This signal [SOS] was adopted simply on account of its easy radiation and its unmistakable character. There is no special signification in the letter themselves, and it is entirely incorrect to put full stops between them [the letters]." All the popular interpretations of "SOS," "Save or Ship," "Save Our Souls," or "Send Out Succour" are simply not valid.

Although the use of "SOS" was officially ratified in 1908, the use of "CQD" lingered for several more years, especially in British service where it originated. It is well documented in personal accounts of Harold Bride, second Radio Officer on the Titanic and in the logs of the SS Carpathia, that the Titanic first used "CQD" to call for help. When Captain Smith gave the order to radio for help, first radio officer Jack Phillips sent "CQD" six times followed by the Titanic call letters, "MGY." Later, at Brides' suggestion, Phillips interspersed his calls with "SOS."

In 1912, at the third radiotelegraph conference, it was internationally agreed to that ships would listen for distress signals on

a wavelength of 600 meters. This is a frequency of about 500 kilohertz. International law required each ship to cease transmitting for three minutes at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. During this interval they were required to listen for distress calls. At this conference, the recent Titanic disaster was fresh on the minds of the delegates, particularly the British. Consequently, many advances were made concerning the cooperative use of wireless at sea.

From "The Telegraph Office" a monthly column on Telegraphy for Antique Radio Clubs. Volume II, Issue 2.  
(Submitted by VA3ROM, Bob)

### News from Europe

*From the files of Elliot Hudes as provided by*

*ARNS President Lee Knirko - W9MOL  
in the December, 1997 ARNS Bulletin  
and from the keyboard of Jim O'Brien -  
VE3UA*

Here it is – the latest news from Europe. The European Union commissioners have announced that an agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year phase in plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short).

In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly, civil servants will resieve this news with joy. Also, the hard "c" will be replaced with "k". Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20 per sent shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of

the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate spelng. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes silent "e"s kause in the languag is disgrasful, and they would go.

In the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" by "z" and "w" by "v". During ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" kan be propd from vords kontaining "ou", and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensble riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi to understand esh ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru.



December answers:  
KEYED, CARBON, DASHES,  
DIPOLE  
VA3GOT = HOCKEY DAD

See you all next month.....73

From FISTS Club  
December 1997  
newsletter. CW: It's Mind  
Over Mouth

The ARRL has confirmed that the Morse code international treaty requirements will NOT be on the agenda at the World Radio Conference in 1999. (WRC-99). It will be postponed till WRC 2001 or it might never get discussed! This means that a Morse code requirement will still be required for operation on the HF bands (30 MHz and below).

From the W1 calling area QSL bureau: 30,000+ QSL card requests processed in a couple of months with over 80 percent of the cards for CW QSOs from Russia, Lithuania, Cuba, etc. I.e. Non-English speaking countries. If CW is so outdated, why are so many QSLs for CW QSOs? Must be something about Morse code being universal, standard abbreviations, Q-Codes, etc., no matter what language you can't speak.

The FISTS CW Club is growing at a rate of about 150 new members per month. Look for those stations calling CQ FISTS. They will work you no matter how slow or inexperienced you are using Morse code.

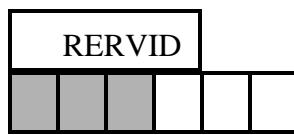
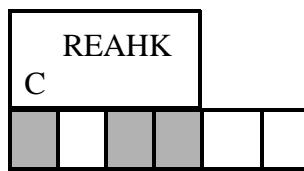
If you want to work the world you gotta do the code, it's the universal (and digital) language. No computers, no fancy equipment, no large outlay of

### HAM PUZZLER

By Dave VE3AVS

Unscramble the four jumbled words and then arrange the shaded letters to form a word or words associated with the call sign shown below. Answer in next month's HI-Q.

V E 3 Z G



cash. You can build your own CW transceiver, string a wire on the clothesline and work low power QSOs around the world with 5 watts, or less.

(Happy New Year de VA3ROM, Bob)

**This message is to announce Willis's (VA3WM) on-line swap shop. If you've got something to sell or if you're looking for something, or are just curious about things why not drop in to:**

<http://www.king.igs.net/~va3wm>

That URL will take you to the home page where you have to click on the "Radio" button to get to the swap shop.

If your browser doesn't support frames and/or you want to get to the swap shop directly then use this URL

[http://www.king.igs.net/~va3wm/radio\\_page.html](http://www.king.igs.net/~va3wm/radio_page.html)

This swap shop is of course entirely free. 73 for now John Herzog, VE3DOP

**From: RAC HQ  
Date: 1997 12 08**

Subject: 1000 readers subscribe to RAC's English Language Bulletin !!

This Bulletin is being sent to you because you subscribed to the RAC email robot. For more information about the robot, please visit

<http://www.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbullemail.htm>

Just a year ago, your editor was sending out bulletins by e-mail to about 275 readers. The task of keeping track of new subscribers, and deleting old ones was becoming very time consuming. At that time, Neil Herber VE3PUE, volunteered to set up a robot which would register subscribers, keep

track of mailing lists, and automatically send out RAC bulletins by e-mail to anyone interested in subscribing. (All Bulletins are also distributed on the packet network across Canada.)

Within one year the circulation has quadrupled to 1000 English readers, and a whole new French language service has been put in place. Full credit goes to Neil for making this possible, and to Guy Charron for editing the French language version.

Our 1000th subscriber to the English bulletin is Lionel W Buller, VE7DRE in Prince Rupert, B.C. He has been licensed as that call since 1977.

Lionel says "Most of the station time is spent on packet as I am the sysop of VE7EEE operating on VHF and 3.607. It is a link from the north coast of B.C. to south eastern Alaska and soon to the Queen Charlotte Islands. The next most popular modes for me are 75m SSB and local 2m FM."

Thanks for your interest Lionel !  
-30-

Jacques d'Avignon VE3VIA Editor  
Éditeur Radio Amateurs of/du Canada  
E-mail Bulletin

E-mail: [monitor@rac.ca](mailto:monitor@rac.ca)

### Sun Spots by John, VE3PHL

Now that the sun is waking up. Many of us "Ham Radio Operators" have some sort of interest in what the sun is up to. Many get their info from WWV or the FQH reports on the NWO net, sunspot numbers and indices etc. Let me show you a path I discovered a long time ago. I may not be the first locally to go this route, but then again I might be. First you need to have a computer and be on the internet. Then lets go the sight called "Yahoo". After the lead page loads up click on the word "Astronomy", it will be in the science section. Then when that page loads up click on the word :Northern lights".

Now when this page is complete you should see "Auroral Studies At The University of Calgary, Canada". Click on this, I believe it is the third file from the top. Institute for Space research will come to life on your screen. Bingo your getting close. Now scroll down till you see "Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin", NOAA for short. Now click on the file "Today's Space Weather", that's it your there.

Here you can download the latest shot of the sun, plus previous ones. Lots of photos on file, also the latest in solar activity, geomagnetic fields, etc. Through out the Article you will see highlighted or underlined words that will open much more info, try it and see for yourself. Bookmark this of course if you plan on going to this site in the near future. I hope that this little article is of interest to some of you Hams. I find it interesting and there is a lot more info here if you want to explore. 73 de John, VE3PHL.

### Swap and Shop

Dave, VA3DVE still has his FT840 Yeasu HF rig up for grabs. Still asking \$ 1000.00 for it. The TS60 has been sold. Call 807-935-2851 Friday to Sunday.

Fred, VE3FAL has a MFJ Multi reader for sale. It reads Morse Code, amtor, rty, and etc. Call 807-622-2617 for more info.

A1 Parnell, VA3IOU has a Computer Aided Technology Morse Code Trainer for sale, asking \$ 100.00. Call 807-767-7185.

Tim, VE3NWO stil has the follwing for sale.

HF package: Kenwood TS450S with ATU, 40 ft. Delhi tower, 20 ft galvanized masting, Yeasu thrust bearing, TX2 tail-twister rotor and control box, 150 ft rotor cable, "2\* 150 ft" 300 ft RG213 coax, Mosely HF beam for 10-12-15-17-20 bands, 12 ft ground rod, and a 30 amp Pyramid gold pwr supply. Asking \$ 3500 or O.B.O. for complete package.

Also, Icom 448H UHF mobile rig, UHF

Mag mount 5/8 coil & whip. \$ 475 O.B.O  
Uniden HR2600 10m and K40 ant. &  
385 o.b.o. Icom 2AT ht with drop in  
charger, 2 bp8 batteries, ext. Mike and extra  
ant. \$ 250 o.b.o. Motorola Maxor crystaled  
for packet radio, Midland UHF commercial  
mobile, dualband 5/8 magmount and  
coil/whip Maxrad, MFJ 1278 tnc, 2 bay  
UHF ant., 2bay VHF antenna, 2 tnc coax  
protectors, Bencher keyer, 2 pos. Coax  
switch, MFJ econo keyer, SM8 dual radio  
desk mike, AEA weather fax station, G5RV  
antenna, SBX HF base12 channel rack  
mountable, 475 ft. RG213, Icom mobile  
mike hm14, 750 ft. 7 strand cu ant. Wire,  
cellular fone beam, 2 climbing belts, Icom  
spring for whip antenna. Please call Tim,  
VE3NWO @ 807-626-2700 cell or 807-623-  
2488 home. Reason for selling is getting out  
of the hobby, tnx Tim

#### B.Y.O.B. soon

Fred Lesnick has moved into town and, he has a garage full of electronic gizmotrons, thinga-ma-jigs, and do-dads up for grabs. He has no room for any of this A-1 ok stuff so he having a give away for anyone who is looking for such. He says B. Y. O B. bring your own bag or box to help find a good home for all this fine memorabilia. Have your ears on in the near future for this event it will be happening in his garage.

affiliation - a club president's manual with activity calendar; a sample club constitution for unincorporated clubs; memorandum and articles of association or incorporation; a 3.3 MB logo and clip art file for club newsletters; the RAC club liability insurance program; access to the audio-visual library, still in development; and access to an Affiliated Club Coordinator for club support. There is no minimum percentage of RAC members. The only requirements are - a club application must be submitted to RAC HQ; the club must have a constitution; club policies must not conflict with RAC; the majority of club members must be licensed, except for school, youth and seniors clubs where only the sponsor/advisor need be a licensed RAC member, and regional societies.

Please complete and submit the application form on the RAC web site.

On acceptance, you will be issued an affiliation number and your password to access the site affiliated club section containing the documents to download and print. Those with no internet capability, please request an application and sample constitution from RAC HQ.

On acceptance, you will receive document copies at a nominal handling and postage charge.

Jacques d'Avignon, VE3VIA  
Editor-Éditeur  
Radio Amateurs of/du Canada E-mail  
Bulletin  
E-mail: [monitor@rac.ca](mailto:monitor@rac.ca)

*Don't Forget, The Amateur Radio Classes Start in the Middle of January Please contact Ed Baumann @ 622-1216 for more information. Tnx Ed.*

*De:  
Waynos' Glossary of Absolutely Enlightening Electronic Terms*

**pencil-beam antenna-** A unidirectional antenna in which those cross sections of the major lobe perpendicular to the maximum radiation are approximately circular.

Oh couldn't find a proper definition of e-field and h-field, oh well.

Once again thanks for all the input for this issue of Hi-Q and all the help that I have received in being the Editor this fall. Happy New Year to all. Wayne Letang, VA3WRL.

P.S. For all those who are particular about me spelling mistakes I have porposaly add ed a few so to keepem you bbbusy. And a special thanks to Dan who has shown me the corrected version of "A Rednecks Guide to Computer Lingo". (Old one Boot)

**From: RAC HQ**  
**Date: 1997 12 08**  
**Subject: Announcing the RAC**  
**Affiliated Club Program**

This Bulletin is being sent to you because you subscribed to the RAC email robot. For more information about the robot, please visit

<http://www.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbulletin.htm>

This new program was created to provide tangible benefits for RAC One Boot)

#### Squirrel Boots ?

It has been reported by Bob, VE3RVA that he found a Squirrel family living in his cross country ski boots. They moved right in and made themselves at home. The Squirrels apparently made it nice and comfortable by chewing up his insoles to make a nest for their young ones. He let the Squirrels raise their young ones and they now moved. Wasn't that nice of Bob. (Old One Boot)

**Don't miss a single copy of HI-Q. Send your change of address notice to the Club.**

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project